



NEWARK PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WILLIE F. GIBSON, FATHER OF NEWARK MAYOR, DIES AT 68

Willie Foy Gibson, father of Newark Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson, died early today (Friday, Nov. 24) at home, 91 Shanley Ave., Newark. He was 68 years old.

Mr. Gibson, a retired butcher, had been in poor health for several years. But he took an active part in the Mayor's election campaigns, and attended his son's inauguration for a third term last July 1.

Mr. Gibson was born near Enterprise, Alabama, and brought his family to Newark in 1940, when the future Mayor was 8 years old.

In later years the elder Gibson told a newspaper reporter why he had come north. "I was making \$14 a week in Enterprise," he recalled, "but then they cut me to \$10. I had some relatives in Newark. So I went up there and finally got a job with Swift & Co. for \$28 a week."

Mr. Gibson worked for the meat packing company's Van Wagenen & Schickhaus subsidiary until his retirement on disability about five years ago. He was a member of the United Packinghouse Workers and served as the local's corresponding secretary. He was also a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Newark.

He leaves also his wife, Mrs. Daisy Shipman Gibson; another son, Sgt. Harold Gibson of the Newark Police Department; two brothers, Daniel R. of Red Oak, Va., and John R. of East Orange, N.J.; three sisters, Mrs. Beatrice Peterson of Miami, Fla., Mrs. Rosa L. DuBois of Plainfield, N.J., and Mrs. Alice Harris of Newark; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be Monday (Nov. 27) from the Whigham Funeral Home, 580 High St., Newark, with a service at 1 p.m. in Zion Hill Baptist Church, Osborne Terrace and Hawthorne Avenue, Newark.